

AN EMBEZZLING DOG.

He Wasted on Beer Funds Meant for Charity.

A sad story of animal depravity comes from a northern coal district. For some years a well-known colliery region has been blessed with the services of a brown retriever, who, with a collecting box strapped saddle-wise across his back, was accustomed to travel from pit to pit begging coppers, and even higher contributions, on behalf of a sick and benevolent fund. In this way he has sometimes obtained as much as 22 shillings in a single week, says the London Express, and the fund itself has been the means of doing an immense amount of good. Of course the miners themselves have been contributing out of their weekly earnings, but the dog excited so much interest among them by the faithful performance of his mission that they readily put their spare coppers into the box he carried.

Some time ago the dog happened to call at a public house, where he knew a good many of his patrons would be assembled. Besides dropping pennies into his box and regaling him with biscuits some of them used to let him take a sip or two out of their mugs of beer. In this way the unfortunate animal acquired a liking for drink, with the most deplorable results. It was not that he occasionally became intoxicated and was thereby unable to pursue his errand of mercy, but his whole moral nature became depraved. To such an extent had this deterioration gone that some days ago he was discovered by the side of the road in a perfectly helpless condition, with nothing remaining of his box except the straps. He was taken care of, and eventually got sober again, when his conduct became such as to excite the utmost wonder.

He whined piteously and tried to escape. By and by he became very violent, and the miners thought he was mad. They would not let him go, but tethered him to a long string, and then he led them to a place on the side of a rocky hill, where they discovered fragments of the collecting box and also the hiding place of the contents.

It seemed that after going his usual round on the preceding Saturday the dog had gone to this spot, and by some means—probably by rolling over and over on his back—broken the box to splinters and released the money. He had then concealed the coins, and, helping himself to them as his degenerate cravings prompted, had spent more than half of the money in beer at various public houses in the neighborhood. Great indignation is felt with the publicans who supplied him, for they knew the dog well and ought to have noticed the absence of his collecting box. And, moreover, after the first four or five drinks his condition must have been a matter for remark. The dog is now under careful restraint, and it is hoped that he may yet again resume his useful labors.

A NEIGHBORHOOD NURSERY.

Plan for Having Children Cared For at Small Cost.

"Establishing a neighborhood nursery will not be difficult if you know any young woman whom all the children love, and who has to work for a living," writes Bertha Fogg Antoine, in the Ladies' Home Journal. "If so, suggest to her that she take charge of the neighborhood babies from three to seven years old for a certain sum per month. A large playground and a big room are necessary. The playground should have a heap of small stones and several mounds of nice dry sand. The playground should have plenty of floor space. The governess should overlook the play and keep the tangles straightened out. She should punish only in exceptional cases, and by the mildest means, but she should interfere before a quarrel has reached dangerous proportions. As to the financial arrangements, circumstances must govern the details. The average female wage-earner receives five dollars a week, for six days' work of eight to ten hours' duration. To the 10 a month add five dollars for rent of room and playground, then divide by the number of children enrolled."

Creameries in Siberia.

The production of butter in Siberia has increased during the past few years to a very marked degree. In the vicinity of Banaul, for instance, there are at present 300 creameries, against two in 1896. The demand for milk vessels has consequently assumed large proportions. A factory for the production of these articles has lately been established at Kurgan, but, as it cannot even approximately supply the demand, the greater part has to be procured from Moscow.

A DIVORCE CHART.

States of the Union Where the Law is Lenient.

An enterprising publishing firm has put on the market a rather unique document. It is nothing less than a divorce chart of the United States, from which unhappy couples can quickly learn in what state they can get separated with the greatest celerity and ease, says the Salt Lake Herald.

"By a mere glance," it explains, "the particular information sought may be obtained. The form and manner in which the laws are placed before the reader are as simple of comprehension for the layman as they are for the lawyer."

The chart, it is to be feared, will do much to put a damper on the divorce industry of South Dakota. Idaho, Nebraska and Nevada are equipped with just as rapid-fire divorce laws as the more widely-advertised state. In fact, they beat South Dakota on one very material point, for while the last named state does not permit the remarriage of a guilty defendant the other three lay no restrictions on either party. They also require less notice of an action than South Dakota, construe causes just as liberally and demand no longer residence.

But easy divorces can be had in the east just as well as in the west. Staid old Connecticut, Maine and Delaware bother themselves not about length of residence, so long as the cause originates on their soil. They also provide a liberal number of causes for persons desiring separation to choose from.

South Carolina is the most inhospitable state of all to the would-be divorcee. The laws there are strict, to the verge of bluntness. But in the majority of states this interesting chart shows that to a couple so minded one can be very easily obtained, and in some the untying of the knot is not much more difficult than the tying.

HARD UPON ABORIGINES.

Havoc Wrought by Diseases and Vices of Civilization.

The injurious influence of "civilization" upon aborigines has been shown in a good many cases within recent years, and is now being once more witnessed in Alaska. The decline in the numbers of the natives of the Aleutian islands is most remarkable. Where there were formerly about 120 villages, with a total population of from 1,500 to 2,500 persons, there are now not more than ten villages, while the population has declined to 1,000 individuals, and only 700 of this number are full-blooded natives. This strong tendency to extinction of native populations has been most strikingly exemplified in Hawaii and Australasia, where tribes were often annihilated in a few years by their inability to resist the diseases and vices of civilization. In the Aleutian islands a large proportion of the recent deaths are ascribed to measles and consumption—both unknown until a few years ago. The population of Alaska is rapidly growing, having about doubled from 1890 to 1900, and as the native element has dwindled, the increase of the white settlers must have been much more than 100 per cent. Similar changes are in progress in Hawaii.—N. Y. Post.

A GEOLOGICAL FALLACY.

Some People Believe Oil and Gas Can Be Found Anywhere.

Probably the most wild and unjustifiable of all the crude beliefs respecting geological resources is that which holds to the conviction that by going deep enough the drill is sure to find something of value, no matter at what point the work of boring is commenced. There are numerous wise persons in every community, estimable, influential, and in the highest degree public spirited, who are convinced that the question, for example, of finding coal in their special locality, is simply a matter of the depth to which the explorations are carried. Rock oil and natural gas are recognized as desirable products in every progressive community, and every such community contains persons, in other respects intelligent, who are ready to stake their own fortune and that of their nearest friends on the belief that oil and gas are everywhere underneath the surface, and that their sources can be tapped with the drill, provided only there is sufficient capital to keep up the process of drilling long enough.—Mines and Minerals.

A Grievous Grievance.

Every man has about one grievance that he springs whenever he has half a chance.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

SALT UNDER QUICKSAND.

Industrial Possibilities Along the Coast of Louisiana.

The practicability of mining salt through quicksand has been demonstrated on Weeks island, in Iberia parish, and the success of the undertaking opens up a great industrial possibility for Louisiana, declares the New Orleans States. For more than two years efforts have been made to reach the salt through the quicksand, and now the difficulties have been overcome by the Myles Salt company by sinking a caisson and the application of other methods.

The process by which the caisson for the shaft was sunk and secured is interesting in many ways. The caisson is composed of circular steel bands some 18 inches in height, and as one is sunk another is riveted to it, with pitch paper between to make it airtight, the earth being taken out as the caisson sinks down. It took 43 feet of this sinking and mining to reach the quicksand, when the water was forced back by the application of compressed air, the caisson meanwhile having been capped by an airlock. The pressure at the distance below the surface was from 18 to 20 pounds per square inch, so a very powerful pressure was necessary to keep the shaft clear of water, but this was done, and passing through a stratum of clay overlying the salt stratum, the base of the caisson finally rested on the salt bed and was sunk some feet further into it.

Below that the salt was penetrated, and a wooden caisson, running from the water line 50 feet above to a present depth of 93 feet below the surface, was put in, and then the process of cementation began. First the rock salt was smoothed off and cut in, when it was heated to an intense heat by the flames from compressed air blowpipes, and the cement, consisting of pitch and asphalt, was poured over, filling up the interstices and sticking to every crack and cranny. Over this was laid a covering of cement, the whole not only securing the caisson, but making it absolutely airtight and water tight and permitting uninterrupted work of the miners.

But the mining will not stop at this depth of 93 feet. Instead it will be sunk to a depth of from 300 to 400 feet, while tunnels will be run out and big chambers will be blasted and mined, and the pure rock salt brought to the surface for distribution all over the United States and Canada.

By the sinking of rods at various points surrounding the shaft it has been ascertained that the salt strata is a mile or more in width, while the bottom has never been reached, affording what is practically an inexhaustible supply of the finest salt in the world.

A REMARKABLE CATCH.

Fish Story That Is Good Until the Next One Is Told.

Recently there has been another record-breaker in trout fishing in Lake Keuka, says the Rochester Democrat. For several days it has been nothing unusual for fishermen to take seven or eight within an hour or so. Almost everybody who tried got full share, and some were fine specimens, weighing from five to seven pounds. It is told of a man from Corning that, while fishing near Bluff Point, he hooked a trout which weighed, he thinks, about nine or ten pounds, but in his excitement he lost the fish as he was about to take it into the boat, with three branches of his Seth Green rig.

The following day one of the veteran fishermen of the lake hooked a trout near the same point. As he landed the fish he was much surprised to find a second hook in the fish's mouth. He started to draw in the loose line from this second hook, and was again surprised to find that there was still another trout on the line which he had fished up. He landed this fish and was nearly overcome when, from the second fish, he discovered a third line upon which was a third fish. The three fish, weighing 26 pounds, were safely landed and were taken to Keuka, where it is said they were viewed by a large number of people.

Economy in Coal.

Here is a simple method of making half a ton of coal go as far as fifteen hundredweight. The plan is to place a quantity of chalk in the grate; once heated, this is practically inexhaustible from combustion, and gives out great heat.

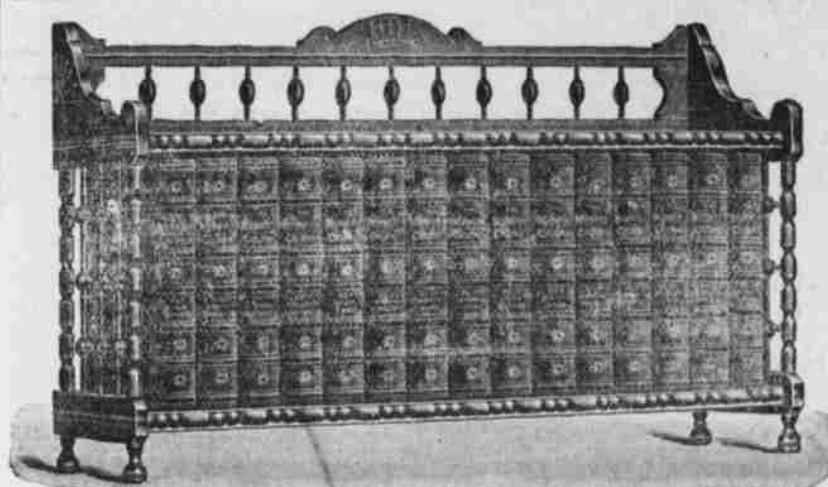
Alaska's Farms.

There are only 12 farms in Alaska. These farms have a combined area of only 159 acres, but the profit from their cultivation in 1900 was \$8,046. This was due, of course, to the high prices prevalent in the local markets.



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